

## Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-07 IO-13 NSAE-00 AID-05  
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CG-00 DOTE-00 COME-00 FEA-01 INT-05 DODE-00 PA-01  
PRS-01 SP-02 /123 R

DRAFTED BY OES/OFA/MST:JKBARNES:LAC  
APPROVED BY OES/OFA/OCA:MDBUSBY  
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NSF/OCE - MR. BROWN (PHONE)  
IO/UNESCO - MR. HEATER (INFO)  
NSF/DPP - MR. ANDERSEN (SUBS)  
-----021735 231953Z /62

O 231834Z AUG 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE  
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INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: XV, UNESCO, AORG, AR

SUBJECT:ANTARCTIC TREATY AND INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION  
OF BIOMASS RESEARCH PROGRAM IN THE SOUTHERN OCEAN

REF: BUENOS AIRES 6014 (NOTAL)

1. ON AUGUST 23, 1977, DEPT. SENT THE FOLLOWING AIDE-  
MEMOIRE TO ARGENTINE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, D.C. IN RE-  
SPONSE TO SAME ARGENTINE AIDE-MEMOIRE AS OUTLINED IN  
REFTEL (BEING REPEATED TO ALL ADDRESSEES):

2. IN REPLY TO THE AIDE-MEMOIRE OF THE ARGENTINE GOVERN-  
MENT DATED AUGUST 15, 1977, CONCERNING TH' INTERNATIONAL  
COORDINATION OF THE BIOMASS PROGRAM, THE UNITED STATES  
GOVERNMENT WOULD FIRST LIKE TO REITERATE ITS SUPPORT OF THE  
BIOMASS RESEARCH PROGRAM, RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR  
SCIENTIFIC DATA AND INFORMATION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND  
WISE MANAGEMENT OF THE LIVING RESOURCES OF THE SOUTHERN  
OCEAN.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT NOTES THAT A GROUP OF SPE-  
CIALISTS JOINTLY ESTABLISHED BY SCAR AND SCOR MADE THE  
RECOMMENDATION THAT THE "IOC UNDERTAKE THE INTERNATIONAL  
COORDINATION OF BIOMASS" AND THAT THE SCAR/SCOR GROUP OF

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SPECIALISTS ON THE LIVING RESOURCES OF THE SOUTHERN  
OCEAN "ACT AS THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC PLANNING  
GROUP FOR BIOMASS." THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ALSO  
NOTES THAT ARTICLE III OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY STATES  
THAT "EVERY ENCOURAGEMENT SHALL BE GIVEN TO THE ESTAB-  
LISHMENT OF COOPERATIVE WORKING RELATIONS WITH THOSE  
SPECIALIZED AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS ... HAVING A  
SCIENTIFIC OR TECHNICAL INTEREST IN ANTARCTICA".

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED THAT, IF THE  
PROPOSAL OF THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT IS FOLLOWED, SCAR  
AS A NON-GOVERNMENTAL BODY WOULD HAVE GREAT DIFFICULTY  
IN PROVIDING FOR THE NECESSARY INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
COORDINATION IN SUPPORT OF BIOMASS. IN THIS REGARD, THE  
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ALSO NOTES THAT THE PURPOSE OF  
THE IOC AND THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF ITS INTER-  
NATIONAL COORDINATION GROUP FOR THE SOUTHERN OCEAN ARE  
APPROPRIATE TO PROVIDE FOR THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
COORDINATION OF THE BIOMASS PROGRAM.

THEREFORE, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT BELIEVES IT  
APPROPRIATE THAT 1) SCAR AND SCOR ESTABLISH AN INTERNA-

TIONAL SCIENTIFIC PLANNING GROUP WHICH WOULD PROVIDE SCIENTIFIC GUIDANCE FOR THE BIOMASS PROGRAM, AND 2) THE IOC UNDERTAKE THE NECESSARY INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION OF THE PROGRAM. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS, OF COURSE, WILLING TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER FURTHER WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA TO TRY TO DEVELOP AN APPROACH TO THIS QUESTION WHICH WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL NATIONS CONCERNED.

3. DISCUSSION WITH REP OF ARGENTINE EMBASSY REVEALED THAT THEIR MAIN CONCERN IS THAT NON-TREATY STATES MAY TRY TO USE IOC/SOC AS A FORUM TO GAIN CONTROL OVER ANTARCTICA AFFAIRS. IN ADDITION TO MAKING POINTS IN AIDE-MEMOIRE, DEPT. STATED THAT KEY U.S. CONCERN WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT BIOMASS PROGRAM GO FORWARD, AND THAT U.S. WOULD OPPOSE ANY SUCH POLITICIZATION OF SOC.

4. NEXT MEETING OF IOC INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION GROUP FOR THE SOUTHERN OCEAN (SOC) WILL BE IN LONDON, 30 AUGUST - 3 SEPTEMBER 1977. MEETINGS OF SOC ARE OPEN TO ALL IOC MEMBER STATES. COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN LAST MEETING OF SOC (1974) WERE ARGENTINA, UK, CHILE, BRAZIL, FRANCE, NORWAY, SOUTH AFRICA, USA AND USSR. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THESE SAME COUNTRIES WILL ATTEND UPCOMING MEETING PLUS POSSIBLY AUSTRALIA, BELGIUM, JAPAN, AND NEW ZEALAND. EMBASSIES WILL NOTE THAT ALL OF THESE

COUNTRIES ARE TREATY PARTIES. ALL ADDRESSEES HOST GOVERNMENTS ARE MEMBERS OF IOC EXCEPT CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

5. FOR YOUR INFO, PURPOSE OF IOC IS "TO PROMOTE SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION WITH A VIEW TO LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE NATURE AND RESOURCES OF THE OCEANS THROUGH THE CONCERTED ACTION OF ITS MEMBERS." TERMS OF REFERENCE OF SOC INCLUDE "TO DEVELOP MEANS OF COORDINATING EXISTING AND PLANNED OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH PROGRAMS IN THE REGION" AND "...TO FOSTER SPECIFIC STUDIES OF LIMITED EXTENT TO FILL GAPS IN PRESENT KNOWLEDGE."

6. BUENOS AIRES: PLEASE DELIVER ABOVE AIDE-MEMOIRE TO QUADRIA AND INFORM HIM THAT WE ARE ALSO CONTACTING OTHER TREATY PARTIES.

7. OTHER ADDRESSEES: PLEASE CONTACT APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS IN HOST GOVERNMENTS, INFORMING THEM OF ARGENTINE AIDE-MEMOIRE AND OUR REPLY. WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED OF THEIR POSITIONS ON THIS MATTER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BY COB AUGUST 26. SEND INFO COPIES TO AMEMBASSY LONDON.

8. LONDON: PLEASE ALSO CONTACT GEORGE HEMMON,  
SECRETARY OF SCAR, FOR HIS VIEWS. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** JKBARNES:LAC  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009